

HONORING LAWRENCE ALLEN AS
A DISTINGUISHED LEADER IN
CENTRAL FLORIDA FOR BLACK
HISTORY MONTH

HON. DARREN SOTO

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 17, 2023

Mr. SOTO. Mr. Speaker, Lawrence "Lare" Allen is a lifelong resident of Osceola County Florida. He graduated from Osceola High and then from the United States Military Academy at West Point. After a tour in the Middle East, he returned to Osceola County to begin a career in education.

One of his biggest fears was being the person who extinguished a child's natural love of learning. He aspired to impart a sense of adventure, hope, and belief to his students. He wanted them to know they could become happy, productive members of society. He treated his students as if they were his younger cousins. He met them where they were and helped them move forward along their own journey.

Lare Allen believes a free quality public education should be available to all citizens. He has worked diligently to achieve that goal within his community. He understands that it begins with supporting the people who support our students since educator working conditions are student learning conditions. He noticed that too often legislation was implemented that did more harm to the students than good, so he became involved in his local union.

Since there was always more work available than people to do the work, he stepped forward to volunteer in a variety of roles. Regardless of one's party affiliation and regardless of one's race religion or creed, he would sit down to discuss how to better serve the students because he believed collaboration achieved better results than competition.

Lare Allen is currently the president of the Osceola County Education Association. He intends to retire this year. He will begin a new career as a day trader with more time to advocate for staff and students at the school board and state levels. He is happily married to his beautiful wife, Laura Portorreal Allen. They have several amiable children.

RECOGNIZING JAKE WOODARD'S
BRAVERY AND HEROISM

HON. BRIAN K. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 17, 2023

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an outstanding constituent from my district, Jake Woodard. Late in the evening on the day after Christmas, with freezing temperatures, Pennsbury High School Junior, Jake Woodard's family was driving home from a holiday party. As they were driving, Jake, a certified lifeguard and member of Pennsbury's JROTC program, noticed a car had pulled over to the side and a man was lying on the ground. A woman was waving for help. Jake immediately demanded that his dad pull the car over so he could help.

Jake got out of the car, and he immediately came to the aid of the man on the ground. Ap-

parently, the man had been walking on the sidewalk and hit a large patch of ice that was about three inches thick and landed on his back, likely hitting his head on the ground.

A woman and her son had seen the man and pulled over. However, as they were unsure how to help him, they waved down Jake's car for help. As the adults stood around questioning what to do, Jake took a knee and began speaking to the man by identifying himself and telling him he was there to help. The man told him his name and stated he had been on the ground for about 15 minutes. As the man was groaning in pain and stating that he couldn't move, Jake advised the man not to move. After a few minutes, the man lost consciousness, and as his eyes rolled to the back of his head, his tongue also rolled to the back of his throat. Jake reached into the man's mouth and cleared his airway to ensure he could properly breathe.

As they waited for the EMTs to show up, Jake continued to take the man's pulse and repeatedly checked that the man was still breathing all while saying "Dan, you are going to be okay, but you need to stay with us."

When the EMTs showed up, Jake immediately told them what had happened, how long he had been there, and included the rate of his pulse and breathing. As the EMTs stabilized the man's neck, Jake continued to speak to the unconscious man, Dan, telling him help was here, and that he needed to try and wake up.

When the EMTs struggled to get the man onto the gurney because of the thick ice, they asked Jake to assist. He reached under the man's lower back and legs, and as best he could he kept him stable while assisting the man onto the gurney. The man never regained consciousness, but Jake made sure the man didn't move, was still breathing, and made sure he knew he wasn't alone.

When it was all said and done, Jake's mom proudly hugged her son, and asked him how he knew what to do. He said lifeguarding taught him what to do and JROTC taught him why to do it, as he stated it was his duty to help.

We are all incredibly grateful for the bravery and heroism of Jake Woodard and all that he does for our community.

CELEBRATING DR. SUSAN
SPERLING

HON. ERIC SWALWELL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 17, 2023

Mr. SWALWELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Dr. Susan Sperling in honor of her retirement as President of Chabot College after 11 years.

Dr. Sperling is the ninth president of Chabot College and the second-longest-serving president. During her 11 years as president, the college improved fiscal stability by securing funding for major infrastructure projects across the campus and helped secure Hayward Promise Neighborhood grants that bring federal resources to the most underserved communities of Hayward and deepen partnerships with local organizations and educational institutions.

In addition, under Dr. Sperling's leadership, Chabot College established the Dream Center

for undocumented students, the Black Cultural Resource Center and more than a dozen agreements and partnerships with feeder K-12 school districts.

Most recently, Dr. Sperling led the college through the unprecedented challenges brought on by the pandemic and the impacts this has had on students, faculty and staff.

Even before serving as President, Dr. Sperling's service to Chabot College goes back 36 years. She first served as an anthropology instructor, where she developed a new program curriculum. Dr. Sperling has also served in a series of faculty leadership roles, including faculty union president, college curriculum chair and dean of social sciences.

An anthropologist by training, Dr. Sperling received her doctorate at the University of California, Berkeley, and completed postdoctoral research at the University of California San Francisco. This led to early career academic posts at University of California Berkeley, San Jose State and several community colleges.

As a community college serving marginalized and low-income communities, Dr. Sperling has brought a democratic vision to Chabot College, advocating for equal access to education and improving access to career pathways.

I join the community in celebrating the many achievements of her career and wish her rest and relaxation. I know Dr. Sperling looks forward to focusing more of her time on anthropology, serving her community and spending quality time with family, including her husband, Marc Janowitz, son, Max Landes, and daughter-in-law Emily Mraz.

HONORING DR. AMANDA
WILKERSON AS A DISTIN-
GUISHED LEADER IN CENTRAL
FLORIDA FOR BLACK HISTORY
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HON. DARREN SOTO

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 17, 2023

Mr. SOTO. Mr. Speaker, Dr. Amanda Wilkerson is a scholar and social reformer who examines academia and analyzes K-20 student achievement to better understand enhancing the human condition. She is a tireless advocate for equity and excellence in higher education who seeks to build a better world for individuals and institutions through cooperation, collaboration, and community engagement.

Currently, Dr. Wilkerson serves as an assistant professor in the College of Community Innovation and Education at the University of Central Florida. She is also an affiliated faculty member and a visiting scholar with the Center for Minority Serving Institutions at Rutgers University. A proud graduate of Florida A&M University, Dr. Wilkerson has written educational materials and coordinated forums on significant civic and scholastic matters. Dr. Wilkerson served as the guest editor for the Urban Education Research and Policy Annals Journal-Hillard Sizemore Special.

As a part of her passion for higher education and her mission to create inclusive learning environments, Dr. Wilkerson regularly works with instructional leaders to build their